S 3553

A Short and Sure

METHOD

Propoſed for the

EXTIRPATION

OF

POPERY,

In the ſpace of a few Years.

By a Perſon of Quality.

THE dreadful Revolutions, Plots and Conſpiracies, which have been promoted by the *Roman Catholicks* in *England* ſince the *Reformation*, are of that nature; and have cauſed ſuch fearful Convulſions in our Church and State, that it is a great Argument of the Goodneſs and Providence of of God, that we have been able to bear ſo many ſhocks, and to avoid ſo many deep deſigns as have now twice within the memory man brought us to the brinks of Ruine.

We muſt be very impious or very ſtupid if our laſt Deliverance has not been able to make us Adore the boundleſs Goodneſs of God towards us his

ſinful and unthankful Servants; he, having defeated the Hopes, and totally overthrown the Contrivances of that reſtleſs, implacable, perfidious Faction, when they ſeem'd to be in ſuch a Condition that they need fear nothing but the Almighty Power of God, miraculouſly exerting it ſelf as in the caſe of *Senacharib*, which they neither feared nor ſuſpected.

The *Non-reſiſting* Doctrine had ſo ty'd the hands of the *Church of England-men*, that they thought they might ſafely inſult over us and ridicule the Bond that bound us to our good behaviour. The *Diſſenters* were as they thought ſo obliged by the *Liberty of Conſcience*, and the fulſom Applications they had made to them in many ill writ Pieces, and by the favours beſtowed on *Pen* and *Lob*, the two Patriarchs as they would have been thought, of that Party: That they not only ſuſpected no oppoſition from them, but really conceived they would have been more than Scaffolds in the ruining Deſign they had then on foot. The Gentry were reduc'd to the utmoſt degree of Contempt, and the Nobility, who only were capable of putting a ſtop to ſuch notorious and impolitick Encroachments on our Birthrights and Liberties, were not only cloſeted, examin'd, re-examin'd, turn'd out of their Stations, brow-beaten, ridicul'd at Court, and in ſhort, driven into the Country; but they were alſo by all the Arts that were poſſible rendred odious to the Crown, Contemptible to one another, and of no Uſe to their Inferiors.

The Army, which was the next great Engine to bring about their Deſign, was managed with more Art than is commonly conſider'd; for firſt there was a party of *Roman Catholicks* mix'd with the Common Souldiers, to be as it were Spies and Tempters, to creep into all the places of their reſort to obſerve their Words, Looks and Actions, and to take the opportunity of all their Needs, Crimes, Vices and Follies, to pervert them, and draw them over to the Church of *Rome*; and in the mean time to ſecure them from contriving any thing that might interrupt their Projects upon us. Secondly, They puniſhed all who deſerted the Service with the utmoſt Rigour and Severity to keep up their numbers; and Thirdly, They ſent them to quarter in thoſe places that had in any degree refuſed to comply with their Wills, and not only ſuffered, but encouraged them to Outrage, and ſometimes to Murther their Hoſts; but to be ſure in all places they very much impoveriſh'd thoſe that entertain'd them, and in the Interim, they kept all in aw and quiet, whilſt theſe State-Mountebanks practiſed upon their Lives, Conſciences, Liberties and Properties.

A People thus harraſed and beſet, one would have thought had been conſigned to Ruine and Deſtruction; for where could our Deliverance begin? The *Parliament*, which is our laſt reſort, was at the ſame time practiſed on with all the Art and Addreſs that the Wit of Men or Devils could invent; and he muſt be of a deep Reach, or a Sanguine Complexion, who in the beginning of *September* laſt could hope to ſee a free and a quiet *Parliament* meet and ſit one Month, to repreſent with any degree of Liberty, our deplorable State and Condition, much leſs to redreſs any of our Grievances.

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We had one Hope, which if they had left us ſtill, we had certainly been as quiet and patient as *Job* himſelf, and that was, that the Princeſs *Mary* of *Orange*, would, when God thought fit, ſucceed His Majeſty, and then we promis'd our ſelves a Day of Redemption from all our Calamities and Oppreſſions; ſo that our Poſterity would at worſt ſee better days: To deprive us of this remote Comfort, that Scene was laid, and the Lady of *Loretto* ſollicited to procure a *Prince of Wales* to reduce us to an utter Deſperation of any Redreſs for ever. And now they thought they were ſo ſecure of the day, that they might attack the Heretical Biſhops, and the whole body of our Clergy at once, and make them *eat their own Dung* in the Faces of their reſpective Congregations; if they had comply'd, the whole Nation would have abhorred them, as a parcel of Cowards; if they did not, the Eccleſiaſtical Commiſſion was to have mowed them down by whole-ſale, and when the People had been once deprived of their faithful and learned Shepherds, the Wolves in Sheeps clothing hoped to have had much better ſucceſs than hitherto; but the Biſhops interpoſing ſo, united the inferior Clergy, that this Deſign proved abortive, and the declaring the Biſhops Petition a *Seditious Libel, and ſo much the more dangerous becauſe penn'd with great Modeſty and Humility*; ſo far opened the eyes of all Men, that the moſt Ignorant ſaw nothing leſs than the Extirpation of the Proteſtant Religion was aim'd at.

The Army however, which was the great Wheel in this moſt dreadful *Machine*, was for the moſt part Proteſtant, and had expreſs'd ſo much Joy at the aquittal of the Biſhops, in the Camp at *Hounſlow-Heath*; that they clearly ſaw till it was new modell'd it could not be relied on; and therefore the *French* and *Iriſh* were to be invited over, and the Companies changed by degrees: and when ſix of the Officers at *Portſmouth*, had with the greateſt Humility imaginable, only deſired leave *to fill up their Companies with ſuch Men of this Nation as they judged moſt Serviceable to the King, or otherwiſe that they might be permitted with all imaginable Duty and Reſpect to lay down their Commiſſions*; for this Offence they were brought up Priſoners to *London*, and it was given out they ſhould be hanged, as perhaps they had been, if *Monſieur de Avaux*'s Memorial given in at the *Hague*, had not come in that very Poſt to enlighten our little *States-men*, and ſhew them their approaching danger, and yet after all, the 10th of *September* laſt, they were caſhier'd at *Windſor*.

And when the Storm from *Holland* ſeem'd unavoidable, with what Inſolence did they treat the Eleven Propoſals made by the Biſhops, and the Petition preſented the 17th of *November* laſt, by the Biſhops and Peers about the Town? So that till the Army began to go over to the *Prince of Orange*, and the greateſt part of the Nation had declar'd for him: No Parliament was to be thought of, and the *Diſpenſing Power* was the moſt Sacred of all the Prerogatives of the Crown.

That we may not imagine all this was undertaken, and entred upon without good Conſideration of the Difficulties the *Roman Catholicks* were to meet with, I would deſire my Reader to peruſe a ſmall piece by them publiſh'd in

the Year 1685, during the first Session of Parliament of *James* the Second, stil'd, *Salus Britannica, or the Safety of the Protestant Religion, against all the present Apprehensions of Popery*, in *Folio*. 'The Design of which, as the 'Author himself tells us, is to examine what National Operation or Influ-'ence a Real Popish Crown'd Head can have over the Lives, Liberties, or 'Estates of *English-men* as now enjoy'd, and the Religion of the Kingdom, 'as at present Establish'd, and by confuting even the most substantial of their 'imagin'd Dangers, to dissipate those false Fears of Popery, *&c. pag.* 1. And in truth I believe no man can deny but he has very effectually proved, that it is utterly impossible for a Popish Prince, who has none but these Three Kingdoms, to set up Popery in this Nation, and that all he can gain by the Attempt will be the ruine of himself. And certainly they could not but apprehend this might possibly, if not probably, be the Event; yet after all, King and Kingdom was at last to be sacrificed to the Holy See of *Rome*; and on they went when they had proved it impossible to succeed.

I need be the less exact in setting down what they have done, it being within the space of four Years last past, that they have had the management of Affairs, and so all things are as fresh in all Mens Memories, as if they had been acted but yesterday: I think then, that I may from these Premises safely conclude, that a more daring, restless and implacable Faction never appeared under the Sun than this is; And that it is the Interest of every true *English* Protestant, of what Perswasion soever he be, to do his utmost to free this miserable Nation from the Danger and Fear too, (if it be possible) of ever feeling again the dire Effects of Popish Zeal, or rather Fury.

Our Wise Ancestors, for above this three hundred Years, have been labouring to restrain this *Demonaick*, by *Laws*, *Oaths* and *Tests*; and when all the Methods of Severity fail'd, we have tried the Charms of Kindness, Trust, Friendship and Reliance: We set up a Prince of their Communion, and opposed all those that would have *Excluded* him, with a Zeal, which made us look a little too much in love with one who seem'd design'd to be our Scourge by Heaven it self. When he had declar'd his Religion, and some of his Party, amongst whom *Nevel Paine* was one, had given us clear Indications of their Rage against us; yet we in Parliament, not only attainted, and thereby ruin'd the late Duke of *Monmouth* and his Party; but when some Gentlemen propos'd to have the Security of the Protestant Religion taken into Consideration, the House declar'd they would *intirely rely upon His Majesty's Promise for the Security of their Religion, which they valued more than their Lives.* And before this, when *Charles* the Second the 30th of *April* 1679, to avoid the Exclusion Bill, propos'd very advantageous Restrictions of the Authority of a *Roman Catholick* Prince: The *Church* of *England-men* rejected them, for fear they should too much weaken and expose the Regal Authority; not to mention the Favours shwen to all the whole *Roman Catholick* Party, during the fierce Prosecution of the Popish Plot in that Prince's Reign: Well, what could have been done more than was, to oblige Men or Christians to treat us

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like Friends, when they had an opportunity to expreſs their Gratitude? No, ſtay you there Gentlemen, we *Roman Catholicks* have but one Friend in this World, and if you are not for him too, ſtand off; Expect nothing from us but Ruine and Deſolation. Will you *Repeal the Penal Laws and the Teſts?* Why? I cannot betray my Religion: Then make room for one that will, Turn out, *Ite Procul Ite Profani.* And we all know what follow'd, and I ſuppoſe no body in this Generation will have ſo little wit as to pretend any more to oblige a *Roman Catholick* by any of theſe things.

Well, will *Oaths* bind them? No, They have a *Pope*, and a Maxim that will fruſtrate that Ligament, when ever it is for their Convenience to be free. And of this we have ſeen and felt too much already: Will Laws? If you catch and hang the Prieſt, the Traytor, the Cut-throat, he is made a *Martyr*, his Crime's deny'd, palliated, excus'd, or it may be juſtified and defended as occaſion ſerves, and yet after all, they ſhall have the Satisfaction of ſclamoring againſt you for a Perſecuting Church, and a Bloody Nation.

Well, what is to be done? Why, for my part, I can ſee but one poſſible Method to quiet the Nation, and that is once for all, to clear it of theſe Monſters, and force them to tranſplant themſelves, not out of the *Engliſh* Dominions, but out of this Iſland: As long as they continue amongſt us, they neither can nor will be quiet; Prieſts they muſt and will have, and that Ferment will ſuffer nothing near it to be at reſt. The remembrance of what is paſt will irritate the Minds of Men, and make them jealous of future Evils, ſo that no care of the wiſeſt and beſt Governors can long keep the Nation in Tranquillity and Peace, if theſe Men-catchers are ſuffered to neſtle amongſt us: But then I would have this extended only to *England* and *Scotland*, becauſe *Ireland* would be laid deſolate by ſuch an Expedient, and if the *Engliſh* Nation, which has not above 40000 *Roman Catholicks* were once cleared, it would very eaſily Suppreſs and Revenge any Attempt could be made in that Kingdom.

Beſides, this all Feme Coverts, all Perſons above ſixty or fifty years of age, all day Labourers and Handy-Crafts-men might be excepted; theſe can maintain no Prieſts, nor much imbroil the Peace of the Nation, or at leaſt for no long time, but then all the Nobility, Gentry, Merchants and Rich Tradesmen of that Religion, I think ought to be ſent packing, and for the future a Law be made to diſfranchiſe them, and make them incapable of poſſeſſing, purchaſing, inheriting or tranſmitting any Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, to the value of forty Shillings *per Annum*, or upwards.

To make this the more eaſie, yet it were fitting that every individual Perſon ſhould be asked whether he had rather leave his Country, or his Religion? and all that would promiſe the latter upon Oath to be excuſed, but ſo as to forfeit their Eſtates if they relapſed after the Oath ſo taken, or brought up their Children in that Religion.

Secondly, To allow all that would Tranſplant themſelves the full value of their Eſtates, both Real and Perſonal, their Debts being firſt paid and deducted.

ducted. This would enable them to live in as great or a greater Equipage and Grandeur in our Plantations, as they ever had here in *England*; and if they removed into *Germany* or *France*, *Italy* or *Spain*, their Eſtates would make their Lives eaſie, and their Baniſhment honorable. The World is wide, and if I were one of them I ſhould never ſtay for an Act of *Parliament*, but would certainly ſell what I had and be gone; that I might enjoy my Religion and my Eſtate in a warmer Climate.

But, alas, they love their Country too dearly to leave it: what is it in *England* they love? The Civil Liberties they had brought to the utmoſt limits of Deſtruction. The Religion of *England* they hate above all other, the Earth is not more Fruitful, and the Air is much Colder than that of other Countries, and I am confident the *Engliſh* Humour is ſo far exaſperated againſt Popery, that half a hundred years will not allay the Fever the laſt four years have raiſed in the *Engliſh* Blood againſt Popery; ſo that they have nothing to attach them to *England*, but the ſullen hopes of being a Plague and a Terror to us.

But it will be ſaid the tranſporting ſo much Wealth out of the Nation will too much impoveriſh us? This ought well to be conſidered, and a true Eſtimate made both of the Eſtates and Debts of the *Roman Catholicks*, and of the Methods of returning their Effects beyond the Seas, and then perhaps it would rather increaſe our Trade than abate our Wealth; and as for the weakning us by the taking off ſo many of our People, this I am ſure is a meer *Chimera*, two or three thouſand Perſons would be the utmoſt that we ſhould loſe: And thoſe who bought their Eſtates would be better Subjects and Neighbours than ever they will be as long as they continue *Roman Catholicks*.

It is not to be imagin'd, that all or any conſiderable part of this Wealth will be tranſported in *Engliſh* Money in Specie, but Merchandiſe, Bills of Exchange, *&c.* So that I am confident we have more ſent away to the *Jeſuits* College beyond the Seas in ſeven years, than would be carried out in Specie on ſuch an occaſion; and hereby we ſhould at once rid our ſelves of one of the greateſt Plagues that any Nation ever ſtruggled ſo long with.

Nor would it be only Profitable but *Juſt*. They have given us the greateſt Provocation that ever was given by Men, to Men. Did ever 40000 Men in any other part of the World ever before endeavor to do what they themſelves had proved to be impoſſible? did ever ſuch an handful of Men before by Fraud and Violence deſign to enſlave a Free, to impoveriſh a Rich, to ſubdue a Valiant and Generous a Nation? What could they mean by the *force* they in print and common diſcourſe intimated, that was, to compel us to give up our Laws, if fair means would not do, but a *Maſſacre*, or a *French* Invaſion? Let them conſider how they have treated thoſe of our Religion in *France* and *Piedmont*; and then tell me and all the world if we have treated them in the ſame manner when

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we have ſent them away with all they can juſtly call their own, only that we might not be forced to ruine them by a ſlower Proſecution.

The Facility is equal to the Juſtice of this Method; they are few in number, hated by all the reſt of the Nation; and beſides all their former Miſdemeanors, have, by the late Attempts upon the Religion and Liberties of *England*, ſo far encreaſed the Averſion of all degrees of Men amongſt us; that they will find very few to pity them, and not many to ſpeak for them.

The only Objections I can foreſee, are firſt; That it will impoveriſh *England* to ſuffer them to carry away their Eſtates, and look too like Popiſh Cruelty to turn them out deſpoiled of what they have, or of a great part of their Fortunes. Now this Objection muſt be conſider'd in Parliament, becauſe no one Man can make any thing near a true Eſtimate what the value will be, their Debts being deducted, till a true Account is given of their Eſtates and Debts, and then I verily believe it will be found much leſs than it ſeems at firſt.

The ſecond Objection is, That it will weaken us and ſtrengthen our Enemies, to loſe ſo many of our People; to this, I ſay, it is apparently otherwiſe. For if thoſe Eſtates were in the hands of Proteſtants they would much more contribute to the Union and Strength of *England*, than the perſons of theſe *Roman Catholicks* can do, of whom we can make little or no uſe in Civil or Military Affairs, at home or abroad, in Peace or War. And if they were added to any other Country, the Peace and Union they would leave us in, would infinitely over-ballance the loſs of their Perſons, and as I believe of their Eſtates too.

But now on the contrary, if they be continued ſtill amongſt us, we muſt ſtill ſtruggle with all thoſe Inconveniences, which have neceſſitated our Anceſtors to make ſo many Laws againſt them, and the Severities which muſt be uſed to keep them under, will, by degrees, when the memory of the late Tranſactions is worn off, beget Compaſſion, and that will grow greater as they grow fewer and leſs dangerous, and yet at laſt one ſingle *Jeſuit* may deſtroy the beſt our of Princes, and two or three Gentlemen of Eſtate, may diſquiet and enjealous a whole County; and when all is done, no hopes is left that any laſting Peace can be made with them; ſo that as long as there is any of that Religion in *England*, there is a Ferment in the Veins of the Nation, which will cauſe dreadful Paroxiſms.

Their Emiſaries will alſo ſow Diſſentions between us and the Diſſenters, and exaſperate the parties againſt each others; ſo that the good Correſpondence which is now between us and them, will, in a ſhort time, be turn'd into hatred on both ſides, if all the Care imaginable be not taken on both ſides of theſe Incendiaries, which will never be wanting whilſt we have a Popiſh Nobility and Gentry, how ſmall ſoever it is in number.

The Seminaries at St. *Omers*, *Douay*, &c. are kept up by the Nobility and Gentry of that Communion, and tend very much to the imbroiling and weakning *England*, and the advancing the Intereſt of *France*; but would ſoon dwindle away if they had no ſupplies from *England*, as they could have little if we had no Popiſh Nobility or Gentry, and the Lands of *England* were only in the hands of Proteſtants.

The retiring of His late Majeſty into *France*, is another ſtrong Inducement, as long as He or the *Child* is living, they will have a pretence to plot and cut Throats, and they will have ſome to pity, and others to applaud them; ſo that if there were no other reaſon, this alone were ſufficient to determine the queſtion, unleſs we are reſolved to ſhew our ſelves as careleſs of a Proteſtant Prince, as we have been over-fond of a *Roman Catholick*; which will be an ill Recompence for our Deliverance.

FINIS.